

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW POLAR HARE FROM LABRADOR.*

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Certain marked discrepancies are apparent in the measurements of Polar Hares from Labrador and Newfoundland tabulated under the name *Lepus arcticus bangsi* by Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads in his recent 'Synopsis of the Polar Hares of North America.'† They are, however, passed by without comment. On examining the specimens in the United States National Museum, together with a few lent me by Mr. Outram Bangs, I find that these differences are correlated with others, both cranial and external, and that the Labrador Polar Hare is readily separable from true *Lepus bangsi* (Rhoads) of Newfoundland. Its relationship to the Polar Hare of Baffin Land, *Lepus arcticus* Ross, is, through the loss of Mr. Kumlien's specimens, less easily determinable. *Lepus arcticus*, however, according to the best testimony, never assumes a complete dark summer coat; while the single skull that I have examined differs from that of any of the Labrador specimens. As the Polar Hare of Labrador cannot be identified with either *Lepus arcticus* or *Lepus bangsi* it may stand as:

***Lepus labradorius* sp. nov.**

1896. *Lepus arcticus bangsi* Rhoads, American Naturalist, XXX, p. 253. March, 1896 (part). Type locality, Codroy, Newfoundland.
1896. *Lepus arcticus bangsi* Rhoads, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, p. 365. August 4, 1896 (part).

Cotypes: Skin No. 14149, United States National Museum, collected at Fort Chimo, Ungava, Labrador, September 28, 1882, by Lucien M. Turner

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† Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia (1896), pp. 351-376.

(original number 1180); skull No. 32132, United States National Museum, same locality and collector, no further data (original number 2326).

General characters.—Most like *Lepus bangsi* (Rhoads) from Newfoundland, but with shorter hind foot and longer ears. General color of dorsal surface in summer pelage clear hair brown instead of dull broccoli brown as in *L. bangsi*. Audital bullæ more inflated than in *L. bangsi*. Differs from the *Lepus arcticus* Ross of Baffin Land in the completely developed dark summer coat, and apparently in cranial characters also.

Color.—General color of dorsal surface hair brown tinged with bluish gray and frosted with whitish. Head clear, pale, hair brown, lightest on cheeks and darkest on crown and forehead. Ears grizzled black and hair brown anteriorly, whitish posteriorly, black at extreme tip. Sides and rump clear gray (Ridgway, Nomenclature of Colors, Pl. II, No. 8). Belly dull white. Hind feet white above, tinged with brown over bases of toes. Front feet white, strongly tinged with brown. Soles of all four feet light umber brown. Tail snowy white.

Skull.—The skull of *Lepus labradorius* exactly resembles that of *L. bangsi* except in the form of the audital bullæ. These are so much inflated that they rise (when the skull is held upside down) conspicuously above the surface of the basioccipital, and slightly above the level of the highest point of the occipital condyle. In *L. bangsi* the bullæ rise very slightly above the surface of basioccipital, and generally not to level of condyle. The ventral exposure of the bullæ is in *Lepus labradorius* considerably longer than broad, while in *L. bangsi* the length and breadth are nearly equal.

Measurements.—Type: * hind foot 140; ear from crown 100; ear to tip of hairs 108. Another specimen (No. 14793, U. S. National Museum): hind foot 142; ear from crown 105; ear to tip of hairs 110.

*The type of *Lepus bangsi* measures: total length 626; tail vertebrae 63; hind foot 160; ear from crown 85. (Rhoads.)